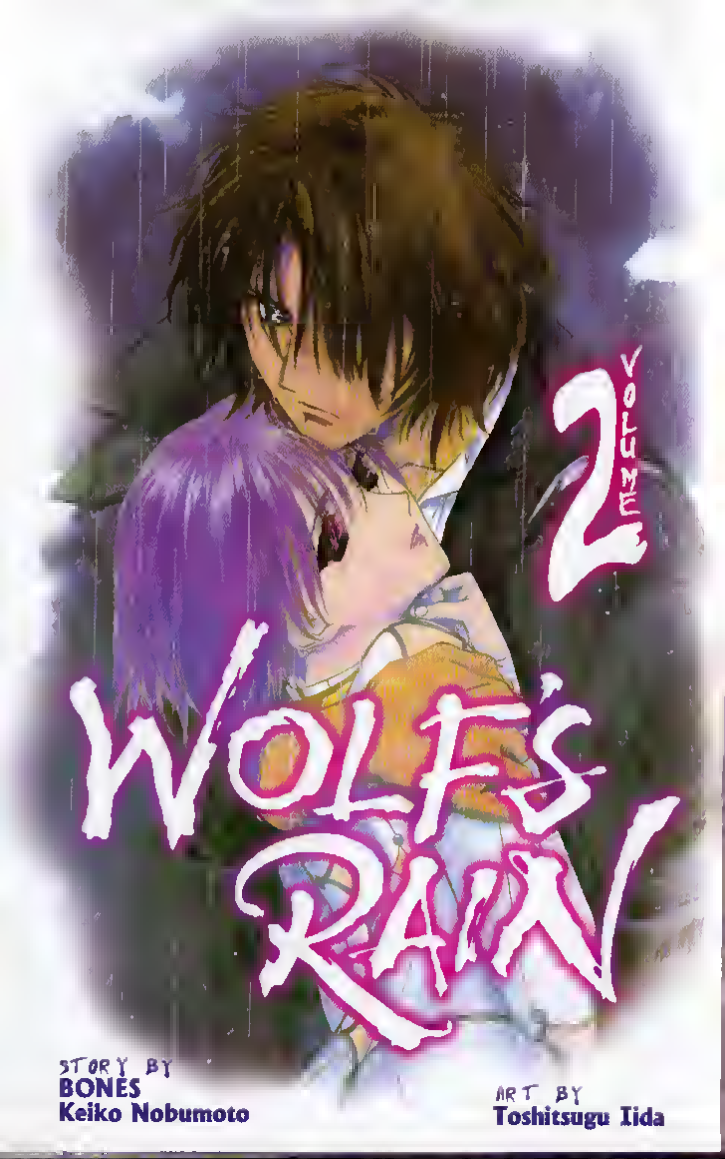
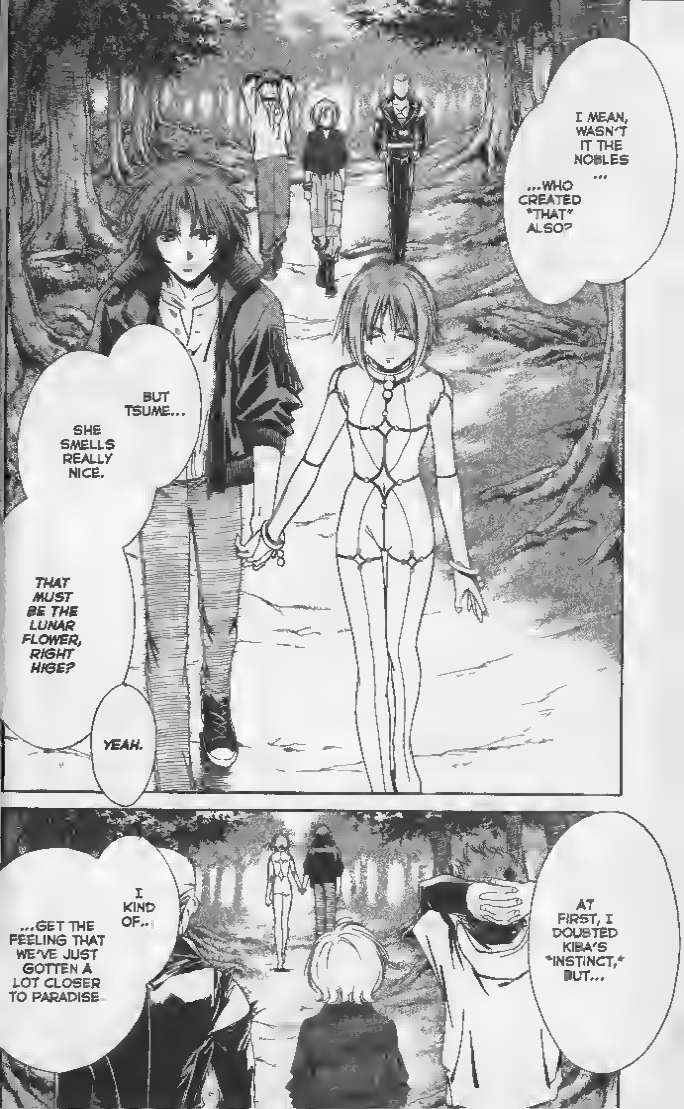

VOLUME 2
WOLF'S RAIN
STORY BY
BONES
Keiko Nobumoto
ART BY
Toshitsugu Iida

grope. 6

...WAITING FOR THIS MOMENT

THIS WAY. OVER HERE.
grope. 6:
The Spellbound Pack
...THE SCENT OF THE FLOWERS... ...REALLY WAS CHEZA.
BUT SHE'S NOT MY TYPE
IT'S TOO BAD.
SHE REALLY DOES MAKE ME FEEL ALL EXCITED.
YOU KNOW ... SHE'S A FLOWER AND A MAIDEN... THAT'S WEIRD.
A HUMAN CREATED FROM A FLOWER ...?
DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT?


I MEAN, WASN'T IT THE NOBLES ...
...WHO CREATED "THAT" ALSO?
BUT TSUME...
SHE SMELLS REALLY NICE.
THAT MUST BE THE LUNAR FLOWER, RIGHT HIGE?
YEAH.
AT FIRST, I DOUBTED KIBA'S "INSTINCT," BUT...
I KIND OF...
...GET THE FEELING THAT WE'VE JUST GOTTEN A LOT CLOSER TO PARADISE

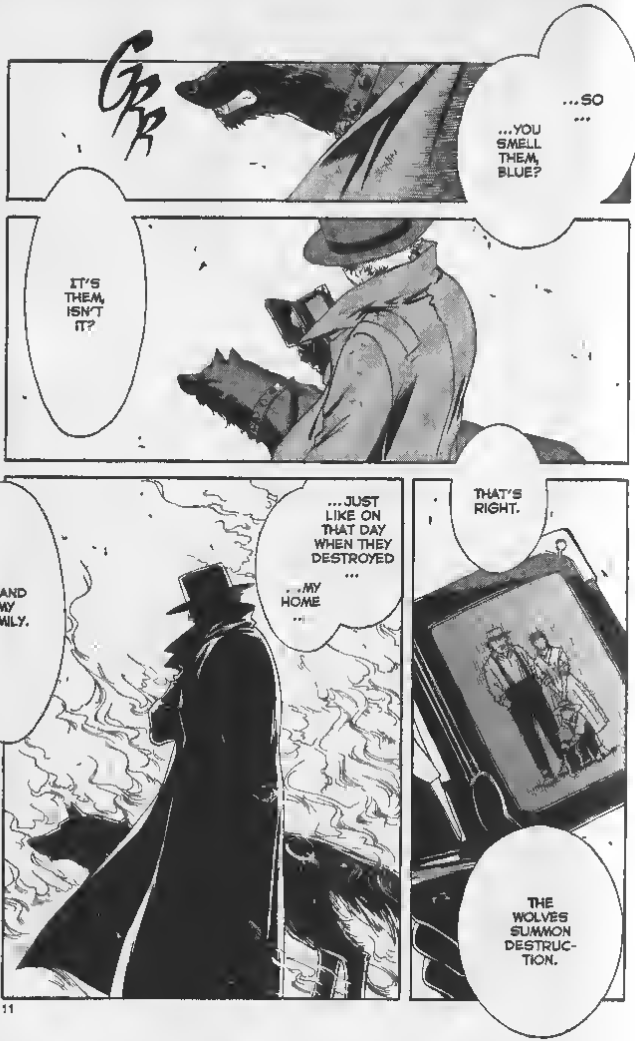
*THIS MANGA IS FICTITIOUS, AND THE CHARACTERS, ORGANIZATIONS, PLACE NAMES, AND COUNTRY NAMES PORTRAYED HAVE NO RELATIONSHIP TO ACTUAL NAMES.

**CHEZA REFERS TO HERSELF AS "THIS ONE."

NO ONE... IS HERE ANYMORE.
NOW... ...IT'S ONLY THIS ONE...
...EVERY-ONE HAS..
...WITHERED AND DIED
...CHEZA-
...THEY HAD... ...A LONG ...

...LONG ...
... JOURNEY.
ALL OF THEM.., WERE HURT...
...A SONG ...?
...HUH? SUDDENLY ...
...I FEEL SLEEPY

IT'S OKAY
THIS ONE IS...
...WITH YOU NOW...


GRR
...SO ...
...YOU SMELL THEM, BLUE?
IT'S THEM, ISN'T IT?
THAT'S RIGHT.
...JUST LIKE ON THAT DAY WHEN THEY DESTROYED ...
...MY HOME ...
...AND MY FAMILY.
THE WOLVES SUMMON DESTRUC-TION.

RUN AWAY AND HIDE IN SOME FRON-TIER...
CLICK
...BUT I'LL...
...HUNT YOU DOWN TO EXTINC-TION.

...GUN-SHOTS...
...NO WAY.
THAT GUY CAME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE!?
NO.
I DON'T THINK HE'S THE ONLY PROBLEM WE'VE GOT ON OUR HANDS.
DID YOUR FAMOUS "SENSE OF SMELL" ...
...GET OVERWHELMED BY THE SCENT OF FLOWERS?
SHUT UP.
YOU WERE SOUND ASLEEP TOO
IT'S NOT CHEZA'S FAULT.
...KIBA.
IT'S THE FLOWER.

IT CAME.
THE SEED OF PARA-OISE.
IT'S REALLY HERE.
WOW.
SO, THIS REALLY WAS THE PLACE.
ALL RIGHT, FELLAS ...
THIS IS OUR TURF.
LEAVE THE FLOWER HERE, AND GET OUT.
GO TO HELL.
CHEZA DOESN'T BELONG TO ANY-BOOY.
WHY SHOULD WE HAND HER OVER TO YOU?

...RIGHT?
...IT WAS MEANT TO BE HERE.
MAYBE IT DOESN'T BELONG TO ANY-BODY, BUT...
AND THE FLOWER FELL UPON US.
...IS OUR TERRI-TORY.
THIS...

SLAM!
UWAAH
OOF
SWACK
CHÈZA!
OVER HERE!
GO

...LOOK ...
...WHAT WE GOT OUR-SELVES INTO...
ALL BECAUSE WE GOT INVOLVED WITH A "FLOWER."
KIBA, I
DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE SO

I CAN FEEL IT IN THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.
THE SCENT OF THE FLOWER IS OVER-WHELMING HERE
IT'S FINALLY FALLEN UPON US.
YOU'RE IN MY WAY.
OUTTA MY WAY.
I WON'T LET ANYONE TAKE IT AWAY FROM ME
I WON'T.
THE FLOWER
OBSESSED WITH IT
THIS DAY HAS FINALLY COME
THIS DAY WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR.
THE DAY THIS ROTTING, DYING PLACE
...WILL TURN INTO PARADISE.

...IS ALL MINE.
THUD
CALM DOWN.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?
BO-BOSS ...
SORR-
BUT, I WAS SO HAPPY THAT I JUST-
...ALL OF YOU...
...GET SO CARRIED AWAY.

WELL ...
I GUESS I CAN'T BLAME YOU.
WE'VE BEEN WAITING SO LONG FOR THIS DAY.
YEAH.
THE BOSS IS RIGHT
Calm down, you guys.
NOT ALL OF US BELIEVE THIS, BUT...
SOME GUYS SAY THAT YOU'VE GOTTEN SOFT SINCE YOU HAD KIDS, BOSS.
...UH-
I'M SURE THAT'S WHY SOME OF THEM LEFT.
THAT'S THEIR BUSINESS, NOT MINE
WHY DON'T YOU MAKE YOURSELF USEFUL ...
...AND TELL THEM NOT TO HURT THE FLOWER.
YOU'VE GOT A PRETTY TOUGH PACK HERE.

IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE YOU HAVE ANY CONTROL OVER THEM WHATSOEVER
SCRATCH
ARE YOU JUST GONNA LET THEM KEEP FIGHTING?
THAT'S HOW THEY LEARN THEIR LIMITS.
I DON'T THINK SO.
I DOUBT THESE GUYS ARE CAPABLE OF CALM JUDGMENT.
BESIDES, IF YOU LOSE CONTROL OF YOUR PACK, YOU MIGHT END UP IN A PRETTY DANGEROUS POSITION.

SKR
..DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE ...THAT THIS PLACE IS GONNA BE PARADISE?
SKR
IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT A MUTINY, I'M READY FOR IT.
I CAN HANDLE IT.
GRR
EVEN THOUGH JUST A GLANCE AT THE FLOWER MAIDEN... ...MADE YOUR ENTIRE PACK GO CRAZY?
SKR
MAYBE THE "SEED OF PARADISE" THAT YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR... ...IS REALLY THE TRIGGER FOR DESTRUC-TION.

...HIGE.
THESE GUYS ARE CRAZY.
COVER YOUR EARS, TOBOE.
AWOOOO
IF WE GET SUCKED INTO THEIR INSANITY ...
WE'LL GO CRAZY TOO.

STEP
ARE YOU VILE BEASTS ...
... SO STARVED FOR BLOOD THAT IT'S DRIVEN YOU INSANE?
UH-OH.
DON'T WORRY. I'LL ...
...PUT ALL OF YOU TO REST.
CLICK

BRATTA BRATTA
TAT TAT
EVERY-ONE, RETREAT TO THE FOREST!
RETREATTT!

RRROW
HOW~
HOW COULD THIS~
I GUESS THEY CAN'T HEAR YOU.
SHI~
SNAP!
...!!
SHI~
YOU IDIOT~!
SNAP OUT OF IT, ALL OF YOU~

SKRINCH
BLAM!

GRRROWL
CAUSING TROUBLE IS IN YOUR BLOOD.
FIGHTING AMONGST YOUR-SELVES WILL GET YOU NOWHERE.
CLICK
YOU'RE ALL GOING DOWN...

grope. 7

BOOM!!
...EVEN IF IT MEANS KILLING HUMANS.
YOU'LL DO ANY-THING TO SURVIVE ...
BLAM!
HOW?
...STILL BE ALIVE!?
HOW CAN YOU BASTARDS ...
KACHI
grope. 7: A Sad Song
BOOM!!
RAT TAT TAT
YOU BASTARDS ...
...HAVE NO RIGHT...
RAT TAT TAT
PING

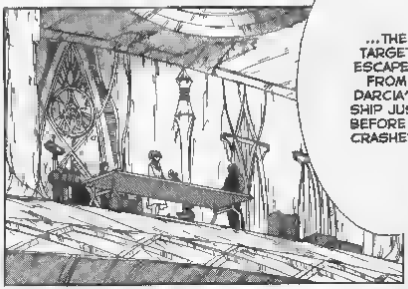
BOOM
RAT TAT TAT
BECAUSE OF THAT MAIDEN
THIS IS ALL HAPPENING
SOME PARADISE THIS IS
THIS WHOLE PACK HAS GONE INSANE
ISN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO'S CRAZY
THAT HUMAN
...TO DESTROY ANYBODY'S FAMILY !!

SHIVER
TWANG
TSUME!?
PATA
PATA
PATA
PATA
PATA
SLICE
RATA
THUD

...YOU KNOW I'M RIGHT, DON'T YOU?
...OF THEIR OWN WEAKNESS.
THEY'RE VICTIMS ...
DO YOU REALLY THINK THE FLOWER ...
THEY SPILL BLOOD FOR NO REASON
...HAVE LOST ALL THEIR PRIDE
THE WOLVES HERE...
...WILL LAY DOWN HER ROOTS IN THIS BLOOD-STAINED SOIL?
ROAR
ROAR
IS THIS YOUR IDEA OF PARADISE?
CRACK
HEY!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?
...SUPPOSED TO LEAD US ALL TO PARADISE?
HEY KIBA! WASN'T SHE...

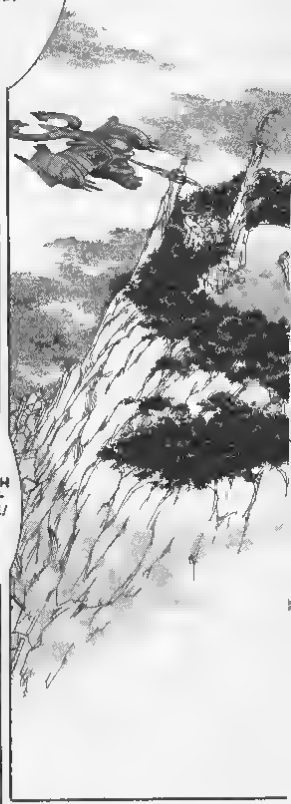
SHIVER
...
WHAT IN THE HELL ...
...ARE YOU?
SHIVER
DID YOU...
...COME HERE TO DESTROY THE WOLVES?
SHIVER
SHIVER

BLAM!


...THE TARGET ESCAPED FROM DARCIA'S SHIP JUST BEFORE IT CRASHED.

WE LOST SIGHT OF IT NEAR THIS GARDEN BELOW.

SEARCH EVERY-WHERE!
OUR MISSION IS TO BRING IT BACK.



IF SHE'S STILL ALIVE... THAT IS.
...CHEZA IS STILL ALIVE.
BEFORE WE LOST HER, THE RADAR STARTED GOING CRAZY.
THE ONLY THING THAT COULD CAUSE A REACTION LIKE THAT...
...WOULD BE...
CHH CHH
WHAT IS IT?
CHH
WE JUST HEARD GUN-SHOTS COMING FROM THE RUINS.
THOSE WEREN'T OURS.
!?
WHOSE WERE THOSE?
I DON'T KNOW...
WE'LL CHECK ON IT...
CHH
SOUNDED LIKE A HUNTING RIFLE.
CHH CHH

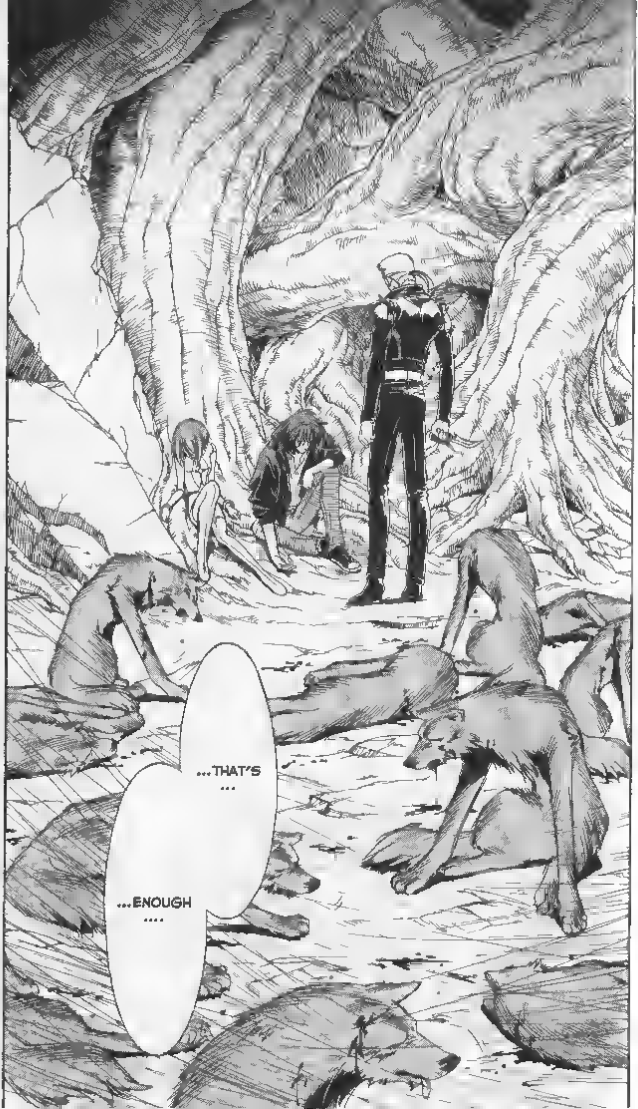
...AN UNKNOWN HIGH FREQUENCY SOUND WAVE THAT WE CAN'T HEAR.
CHEZA!?
FLASH
THE AREA IS SURROUNDED BY...
FLASH
WHAT THE-!?
WHAT THE HELL!?
THE GAUGES ARE ALL...
WE'VE LOST CONTACT WITH THE TROOPS.
I DON'T GET IT.
THOSE LEVELS SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ENOUGH TO CAUSE INTERFERENCE.

VOICE
IT...
EN-
SHROUDS
EVERY-
THING
HERE
AND
WIPES
AWAY
THE
PAIN
A
SORROW-
FUL
TENDER-
NESS-
FILLED
DISTANT

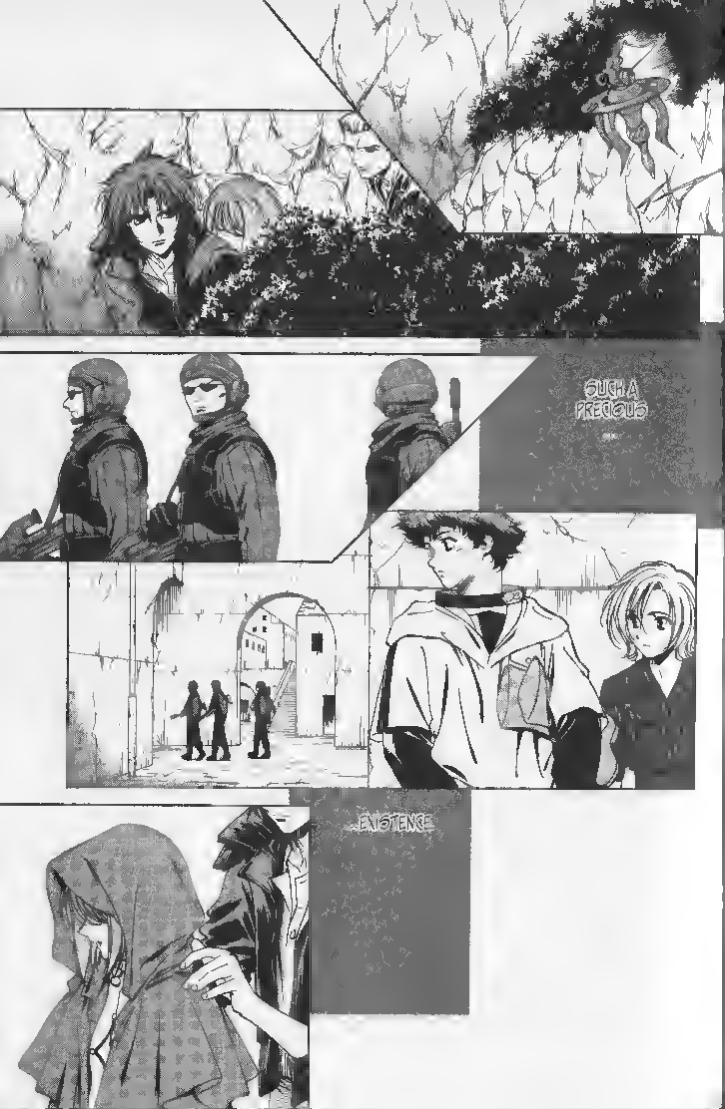
BLAM
KLINK
HUH?
!
...BLUE?
...HEY-
ARE YOU OKAY ...?
WHAT IS IT!?

...
Wa
FLUMP
SWIP

...THAT'S ENOUGH.
STOP.
STOP SING-ING.


...THAT'S
...
...ENOUGH
....

...HAD THE EXTRAORDINARY POWER TO CHARM AND COMFORT THE WOLVES.
...YEAH.
...LET'S GO.
THE FLOWER THAT FELL FROM ABOVE...
THIS ONE...
...CAN WALK.
...IT'S FINE.
ITS EXISTENCE SEEMED SO FRAGILE... AS IF IT COULD WITHER AND DIE AT ANY MOMENT.
...IT'S FINE.
YET...


SUCH A
PRECIOUS
...EXISTENCE

...HEY YOU TWO
THIS PLACE ...
...IS FULL OF HUMANS WIELDING GUNS!
...GO ON
GO...
YOUR MAMA ISN'T GOING TO WAKE UP...
...AND YOUR PAPA ...
...ISN'T COMING BACK--. EITHER...
...I'M SORRY ...

...I COULDN'T ...
...PROTECT ANYTHING ...

THE JOURNEY BEGINS
THERE IS NO HOPE FOR A FUTURE HERE
I CAN'T JUST WAIT FOR PARADISE TO COME TO ME
I'VE GOT TO GET OVER THIS FEELING OF PAIN AND LOSS
THE FUTURE LIES AHEAD

NOW
...IS
THE
TIME
TO
BEGIN
...A
NEW
JOURNEY.

FIND THE TARGET, EVEN IF YOU HAVE TO UPROOT THE GRASS.
WE CAN'T COUNT ON THE MACHINES ANY LONGER.
SWEEP THE AREA.
HUH? !?
...WHERE'S DR. DEGRE?
I CAN'T RELY ON THE NOBLES' ELITE TROOPS ANY LONGER
...AND ALL THEY FOUND ARE SOME STRAY DOGS' CORPSES.
...THEY'VE GOT A WHOLE ARMY SEARCHING...
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
SHI-
I GUESS WE CAN'T COUNT ON SCIENTISTS EITHER.

STRAY DOGS ?
Huh
BEEP BEEP
...THE RADAR...
I'M PICKING UP THE SIGNAL AGAIN.
IF THAT HIGH FREQUENCY SOUND WAVE THAT INTERFERED WITH THE MACHINES...
...WAS ACTUALLY CAUSED BY YOU...
WHAT IF THOSE CORPSES THEY FOUND WEREN'T REALLY DOGS?
SHH

RUMBLE
RUMBLE RUMBLE
...UH.
...HAHH
CHEZA.
WHAT COULD BE GUIDING YOU?
STEP

But the stories written in here all vanished 200 years ago. And now it's nothing but a fairytale.
This is the "Book of the Moon" a forbidden book that only a select few could see.

SHE'S LAUGHING
IS THAT ...A WOLF ...
...GLIMMERING BELOW
...THE MOONLIGHT?
STEP

RUSH
WOLVES
THE LUNAR FLOWER
IT WAS ALL SUPPOSED TO BE JUST A FAIRY TALE CREATED 200 YEARS AGO... BUT...
NOW... I SEE IT BEFORE MY VERY EYES...
SHIVER

IT'S
UNEQUIVOCAL
TRUTH
IT'S
NOT
AN
ILLUSION
IT'S
NOT A
DREAM

WHY AM I CRYING...?

...WAIT!
...CHEZA!
...IS THAT NUMAN ...
...CHASING AFTER CHEZA?
I'VE SEEN NER BEFORE
SHE'S FROM THE LAB WHERE CNEZA WAS BEING HELD.
...ARE YOU JUST GONNA IGNORE HER?
THERE'S NO WAY A HUMAN COULD KEEP UP WITH US ANYWAY.
I'M NOT HANDING CHEZA OVER, NO MATTER WHO COMES AFTER US.

...THERE'S NO SIGN OF ANY HUMANS OUT HERE.
CHEZA'S DOING BETTER AGAIN.
THANK GOOD-NESS.
...BUT ...
SHE LOOKS KIND OF LONE-SOME...
THAT'S BECAUSE ...
...SO MANY WOLVES WERE LOST.
SHE MUST BE DEPRESSED
IT'S IT'S OWN DAMN FAULT.
... TSUME!
YOU CAN'T BLAME CHEZA FOR EVERY-THING.

DON'T TRY TO TELL ME IT'S NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS.
...BUT, IT'S NOT FAIR TO BLAME IT ALL ON HER.
...SO
DOES THIS ROAD GO ALL THE WAY TO YOUR LITTLE PARADISE?
I THINK SHE'S TRYING TO TAKE US SOMEWHERE.
...NOT AGAIN.
IT'S NOT GONNA CAUSE ANOTHER SCENE THERE, IS IT?
WELL....
EVEN THOUGH SHE SEEMS A LITTLE BETTER NOW, SHE'S STILL EXHAUSTED.
really?
LET'S JUST TAKE IT EASY.

WHEN THAT HAPPENS, WE'LL FIGHT BACK.
WE'LL PROBABLY JUST END UP BEING HUNTED DOWN BY HUMANS.
YOU'RE PRETTY OPTIMISTIC, HIGE.
AND YOU'LL JUST LET THAT DESTROY EVERYTHING AGAIN?
WE'LL ALWAYS BE FIGHTING.
AS LONG AS WE'RE WITH IT...
...CHEZA?
YOU'RE HURTING CHEZA'S FEELINGS AGAIN.
STOP IT, TSUME AND KIBA.

...THIS ONE'S SORRY.
TSUME.
...THIS ONE'S SORRY.
THIS ONE... WILL BE FINE
AS LONG AS THERE IS MOON-LIGHT AND WATER...
...THIS ONE WON'T ...
...WITHER AND DIE YET...
SHI-
GO TO HELL.

YEAH.
THIS WAY...
...CHEZA?
DO WE GO IN HERE?
...IS-ISN'T IT SO DARK?
WHAT'S WRONG, TOBOE?
ARE YOU SCARED?
CLOP
CLOP
...THI-
THIS IS NOTHING.
Aaaah, this is a bit much

STEP
HI-HIGE...
?
WHAT IS IT?
DON'T SOME OF THESE...
ROCKS...
...LOOK LIKE PEOPLE?
WHAT?
HUH...!?
IT'S-
IT'S JUST YOUR IMAGINATION.
DO THEY SMELL LIKE CORPSES AT ALL?
...THEY..
...WERE ALL FRIENDS OF THIS ONE...
...FRIENDS...?

...SO- SO, ALL OF THESE...
AND ALL OF THE BODIES IN THAT CAVE...
THEY'RE ALL...
...FLOWER MAIDENS'
...SO, WHEN THE FLOWERS KNEW THEY WERE GOING TO DIE...
...THEY CHOSE TO BECOME THEIR OWN TOMB...!
...GATHERED HERE...
...BUT ...ALL OF THE FLOWERS WHO KNEW THEY WERE GOING TO WITHER AND DIE...
...WERE ALL BORN BEFORE THIS ONE WAS
THEY...

...THEIR VOICES...
...CAN'T...
...BE HEARD ANYMORE.
EVERY-ONE...
....THIS ONE'S BACK.
THIS ONE'S...
...FOUND THE WOLVES...
...SING ANY-MORE.
...BUT THEY CAN'T...
...THE MOONLIGHT COULD REACH THEM, SO THEY WEREN'T LONELY.
HERE...
THEY CAME HERE SO...
...THE WOLVES COULD HEAR THEIR VOICES.

CRACK
CRACK
KAW
CRACK
CHEZA!?
SOUNDS LIKE THE ROCKS ARE BREAKING APART?
AND ...
DO YOU HEAR BIRDS?
...UH
KAW
KAW
SO-
SOME-THING'S COMING.

KAW
I SMELL ...
...DANGER
CRACK
IT'S COMING FROM INSIDE THE CAVE. .
KAW KAW
WHOA.
THE CAVE..
...IS COMING ALIVE..
KAWW
FWAAH!!

FIGHT

...CHEZA!
...CHEZA.
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE SAD ABOUT
THEIR SOLE PURPOSE IN LIFE WAS TO BRING ABOUT YOUR EXISTENCE ...
...AND THEN WITHER AWAY.

KAW
KAW
CHEZA.
YOU STILL EXIST HERE.
THAT ALONE IS ENOUGH ...
...TO EASE THE PAIN OF YOUR FRIENDS.
KAW
KAW

KAW
KAW
KAW
HE--
HE'S THE... GUY FROM BEFORE --.
...
THE NOBLE ..!!
KAW
KAW
...DO WITH CHEZA?
WHAT'RE YOU WOLVES ...
...GOING TO..
WE'RE GOING ...
...TO FIND PARA-OISE TO-GETHER.
WE'RE TAKING HER WITH US.

KAW
KAW
KAW
KAW
YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT TO PARA-DISE...
...NOT EVEN WITH HER.
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO DO ANY-THING ...
...BUT SIT AND WATCH AS CHEZA WITHERS AWAY LIKE THE OTHER FLOWERS DID.
...HOW ...
...DO YOU KNOW?

WHAT DO YOU WOLVES REALLY KNOW ABOUT CHEZA?
...LET ME ASK YOU THIS.
KAW
KAW
KAW
YOU WANT TO OPEN PARADISE?
...FOR THIS VERY REASON ...
THIS MAN...
...OTHER NOBLES HAVE ALSO TRIED TO STEAL HER FROM ME.
OH... HOW CAN...
I HAVE SO MUCH POWER OVER US!
BUT...
NOT A SINGLE ONE OF THEM SUCCEEDED ...
NEITHER HUMAN ...
...NOR WOLF.
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
THEY ALL WANT TO KEEP CHEZA FOR THEMSELVES.
I'M SURE ...
...THAT WILL NEVER CHANGE.

KACHINK
BAT
...WHO UNDERSTANDS CHEZA AND KNOWS THE TRUE PATH TO PARADISE.
NOT A SINGLE PERSON HAS MADE IT TO PARADISE.
...BECAUSE...
THAT'S....
STILL...
SLICE
I'M THE ONLY ONE...

...
I MADE IT...
...JUST IN TIME...

THIS SPECTACLE
OVERWHELMS ME...
...NOT ONLY WITH FEAR, BUT WITH...
...SOMETHING I CAN'T EVEN DESCRIBE.
KAW
KAW
KAW
KAW
KAW
OSH
THE SUPPOSEDLY EXTINCT WOLVES
AT THIS MOMENT, THE ZOO-YEAR-OLD FAIRY-TALE
HAS BECOME A REALITY

IN ORDER TO SURVIVE
HAVE BEEN DISGUISING THEMSELVES AS HUMANS
...CHEZA.
I SPENT SO MUCH TIME STUDY-ING YOU, BUT...
...I KNEW NOTHING ABOUT YOU.
BUT... ONE THING IS FOR SURE.
IF BEING WITH THE WOLVES IS...
...CHEZA'S-YOUR TRUE DESTINY ...
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP

CLICK
I'M...
...GONNA MAKE IT HAPPEN.

grope. 9

..GO ON..
grope. 9 The Pedigree of the Guides
TAKE CHEZA WITH YOU
...HURRY !!
...WHAT'S GOING ON?
..YOU'RE
..FOLLOWING CHEZA
THE PEOPLE WHO FOLLOW THE NOBLES' ORDERS ARE ALONE EVEN HERE.

DO YOU...
...EVEN KNOW WHO THESE GUYS ARE?
KAW
KAW
...YES.
...WHY ARE YOU ON THEIR SIDE?
...
I DON'T KNOW
...BUT
BUT, WHEN I SAW GHEZA WITH THEM...

I JUST FELT LIKE
IT WAS MEANT TO BE.
NOBODY HAS THE RIGHT TO
BREAK THEM APART
DID YOU ...
...READ THE BOOK OF THE MOON?
...YES.
BUT...
IF EVERY-THING THAT YOUR ANCESTOR, DARCIA THE FIRST ..
...WROTE ABOUT THAT ALCHEMY IS TRUE ...
...THEN WHAT...
...WAS HE REALLY AIMING FOR?

WHAT...
...IS CHEZA'S TRUE PURPOSE?
WHAT'RE YOU NOBLES TRYING TO DO?
...MY FAMILY HAS ALWAYS HAD...
...THE SAME GOAL.
TO FIND PARA-DISE.

...PARA-
DISE?

PARADISE WILL SOLVE THE CURSE...
...OF THE ONE I LOVE.
THUD

KIBAAA!
!?
CHEZA
!?
CHEZA!!
HYUU

BOOM
BOOM
KABOOM
FWISH
KIBA!
SHI-
OOF.

SCRINCH
CLINK
KIBA...

KIBAAA!
...
...WE'RE THE ONES WHO CREATED CHEZA FROM THE LUNAR FLOWER.
WHY DO YOU WANT CHEZA SO BADLY?
...I DON'T CARE WHO YOU NOBLES ARE...
CHEZA IS SHOWING US... THE ROAD TO PARADISE.
ROWR

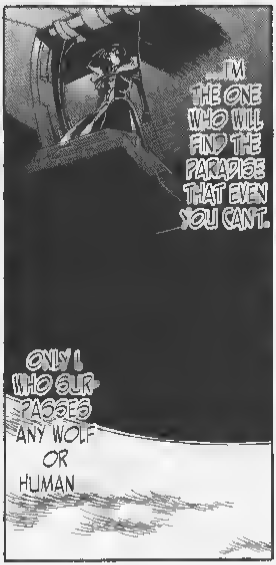
...ISN'T JUST FOR YOU WOLVES.
... PARADISE ...
THUD
CHEZA!
!!
PARA-DISE...
...ROBBED EVERY-THING FROM ME.
ALL IT GAVE ME WAS ...
...A CURSE ...
...SUF-FER-ING...
...SOR-ROW.
AND SO... THE ONLY WAY TO END THIS IS ALSO... PARA-DISE.

HYUU
HYUU
KIBA ...!
...WHAT KIND OF...
...PARA-DISE...
...ARE YOU SEARCH-ING FOR?
..THE SAME ONE YOU ARE.
THE PLACE YOU DREAM OF...
. . .WHERE ONLY THE CHOSEN ONES CAN ENTER
YOU...
...AND I...

...ARE
BOTH
SEARCHING
FOR THE
SAME
PARADISE.

WHAT THE HELL
ARE YOU?
...A WOLF'S ...EYE ...

I AM THE TRUE CHOSEN ONE


I'M THE ONE WHO WILL FIND THE PARADISE THAT EVEN YOU CAN'T.
ONLY I, WHO SURPASSES ANY WOLF OR HUMAN

A HUMAN WITH ONE WOLF'S EYE
THERE NEVER WAS ANY PARADISE WITH THE FLOWERS

TSUME!
HIGE!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
HURRY UP!
THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN CATCH UP TO THE NOBLE'S FLYING SHIP.
BUT ...
...KIBA AND CHEZA-
GO RUN BY YOUR-SELF.
...TO HELL WITH THEM.
...
THERE NEVER WAS ANY PARA-DISE.
IF CHEZA ...
...WAS CREATED BY THOSE NOBLES ...

...WERE TRICKED INTO CHASING AFTER AN ILLUSION CONTRIVED BY THE NOBLES.
...THEN WE...
ARE YOU SAYING THIS WHOLE TRIP UP TO NOW WAS WORTHLESS?
...SO, TSUME ...
...OKAY LOOK .. MAYBE I'VE JUST BEEN SLOWING YOU GUYS DOWN
MAYBE I HAVEN'T BEEN MUCH MORE THAN A FOLLOWER
BUT, I REALLY WANTED TO SEE PARADISE.
I WANTED TO PROTECT CHEZA...
...UNTIL THE VERY END.

...TO BE MEAN-ING-LESS.
I... ...DON'T WANT THIS JOURNEY OF OURS ...
...JUST BECAUSE WE THINK THE NOBLES TRICKED US
IT'D BE A WASTE TO GIVE UP HERE
AND WE MANAGED TO MAKE IT THIS FAR-
SOMEHOW, FATE BROUGHT US TOGETHER
.. YEAH.
EVEN IF IT'S ALL AN ILLU-SION CON-TRIVED FOR SOME-ONE
TOBOE ..
YOU'RE THE SAME LITTLE BRAT AS ALWAYS
? ?
..HIGE, AREN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT KIBA AND CHEZA?
..A WASTE?

LET'S HURRY!
THIS PATH WE'VE ARRIVED AT DEFINITELY EXISTS FOR SOMEONE
WE'RE HERE NOW.
THAT'S ONE THING WE CAN'T DENY
Patter
Patter
CHEZA...
PARADISE?...
A FLOWER CREATED FOR INVISIBLE CREATURES?
...THE NOBLES ARE STRUGGLING TO STEAL HER.
IT'S ALMOST AS IF...
...WITHOUT CHEZA, THERE CAN BE NO TOMORROW.

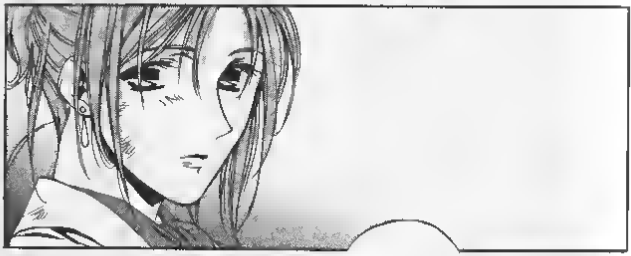
I'M JUST LIKE THEM
...AS IF, IN THE DARK WITHOUT MOONLIGHT.
CREECH
SLAM!!
CHERRR !!

...KUBB
..
...ARE YOU OKAY!?
..I FINALLY FOUND YOU..!
..I WAS SO SCARED.
I HEARD YOUR LAB WAS SHUT DOWN WITHOUT WARNING —.
..AND THERE WAS NO SIGN OF YOU ANY-WHERE

...SHE CHEZA WAS TAKEN AWAY
...AH, I THOUGHT SO. I HEARD RUMORS.
BUT... CHEZA BELONGED TO DARCIA ORIGINALLY ...
WE WERE THE ONES WHO STOLE HER IN THE FIRST PLACE
ALL YOU DID WAS STUDY CHEZA. YOU WERE JUST FOLLOWING ORDERS.
...I DON'T KNOW ...WHAT I SHOULD DO NOW ...
DON'T BLAME YOUR-SELF.
...JUST FOLLOW YOUR HEART.

SO, JUST KEEP CHASING AFTER HER.
Zoom
CAN YOU?
YOU CAN'T FORGET ABOUT CHEZA ...
...JUST NOT AS JUDGMENTAL AS YOU USED TO BE?
..DON'T BE MEAN
MAYBE YOU'RE ...
YOU SEEM SO MUCH MORE CONFI-DENT.
YOU'VE REALLY CHANGED, HUBB.
Hen
...FOL-LOWING MY HEART
I WAS JUST ...
WERE YOU JUST DOING YOUR DUTY AS A DETEC-TIVE?
...EVEN THOUGH WE'RE NOT TOGETHER ANYMORE?
WHY DID YOU COME LOOKING FOR ME...
HUH?
WHY?
I LOOKED ALL OVER.
..I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU FOUND ME

I COULDN'T FORGET ABOUT YOU.



GET A ROOM, YOU TWO.
!!?

...I SEE YOU ALREADY HAVE A GUEST.
I FOUND HIM STUMBLING AROUND AIMLESSLY, SO I PICKED HIM UP.
IT SEEMS HIS PET DOG RAN AWAY.
...CHEZA.
THERE'S NO REASON TO CRY
YOU HAVEN'T LOST ANY-THING.

THE LUNAR FLOWER ...
THE BLOOD OF THE WOLVES ...
EVERY-THING YOU NEED TO OPEN PARA-DISE...
...IS ALREADY RIGHT HERE.

A COLLAR
...WHAT IS...
...A SERVANT TO HUMANS...
grope. 10
...DOING OUT HERE?
...A VOICE...
I HEARD A SONG THAT SEEMED TO LEAD ME HERE...
OF A WOLF?
VERY DANGEROUS ABOUT THIS HUMAN.
THERE'S SOMETHING

...
THAT VOICE
...WAS CHEZA.
...CHEZA ...
...THAT ...
...IS PROOF THAT YOUR INNER "WOLF" HAS FINALLY AWOKEN.
MY INNER WOLF"
...WHAT'S ...
...YOUR NAME?

...BLUE
...
THE WOLF STILL REMAINS
Thump
BLUE
...
YOU
...
...AND I HAVE SOME-THING IN COMMON.
...IN MY BLOOD.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS?
Thump
LET ME TELL YOU EXACTLY WHY...
...YOU'RE MEANT TO BE HERE.
I CAN'T GO BACK.
Thump

grope. 10

The Depths of Despair

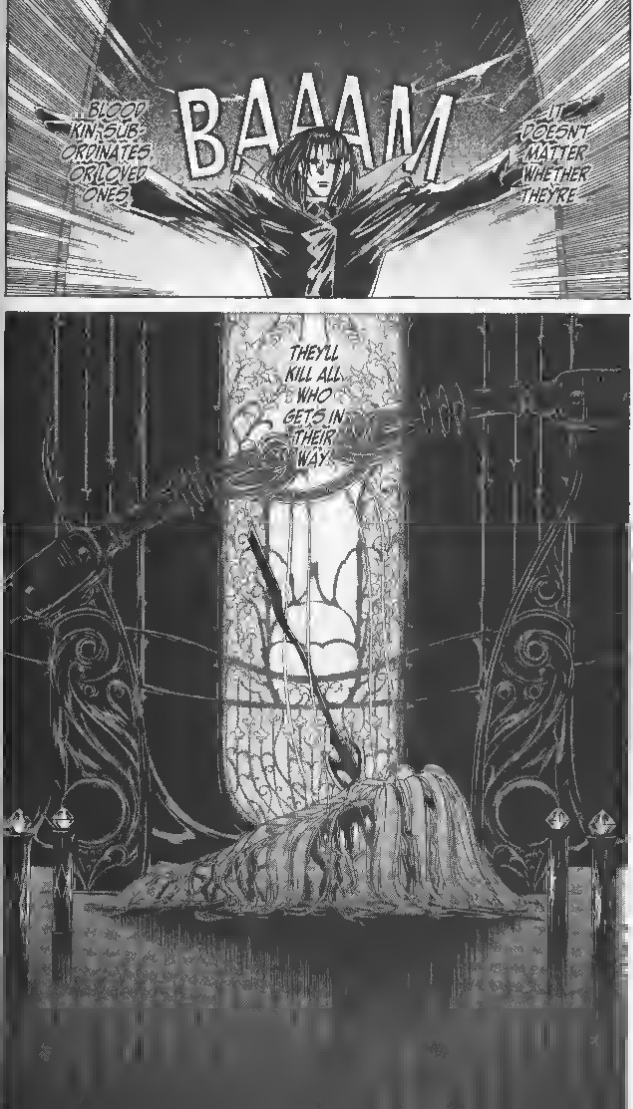
...CHER.
I DID SOME THINK-ING...
AFTER YOU DISAP-PEARED ...
VROOOM
...ABOUT WHY CHEZA SEEMS TO HAVE SUCH A POWER-FUL HOLD ON YOU.
AND ...
WHILE I WAS LOOK-ING INTO IT...
VROOOM
I FIGURED OUT A LOT OF THINGS.
THESE DAYS, THE WHOLE WORLD ...
...SEEMS OVER-WHELMED ...
...WITH ANXIETY.
AND THE NOBLES ARE NO EXCEP-TION.

THEY HAVE ...
...STARTED HUNTING WOLVES.
I OVERHEARD SOMEONE SAY...
"THIS COULD BE THE END OF THE WORLD."
"WHEN THE WORLD ENDS, PARADISE WILL APPEAR SOMEWHERE IN THE WORLD, AND A HEAVY RAIN WILL MELT AWAY THE FROZEN SOIL."
"BUT ONLY THE WOLVES WILL KNOW HOW TO FIND PARADISE."
THINK
THE NOBLES ARE TRYING DESPERATELY TO GET A HOLD OF "THE POWER" THE WOLVES ALONE POSSESS
THEY'RE SEARCHING FOR THE KEY THAT IS CHEZA.
AND HUNTING DOWN THE LAST OF THE WOLVES
HIS VILLAGE WAS BURNT DOWN BY ONE OF THE NOBLES' WOLF HUNTING PLATOONS.
DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE WHAT THEY SAY?

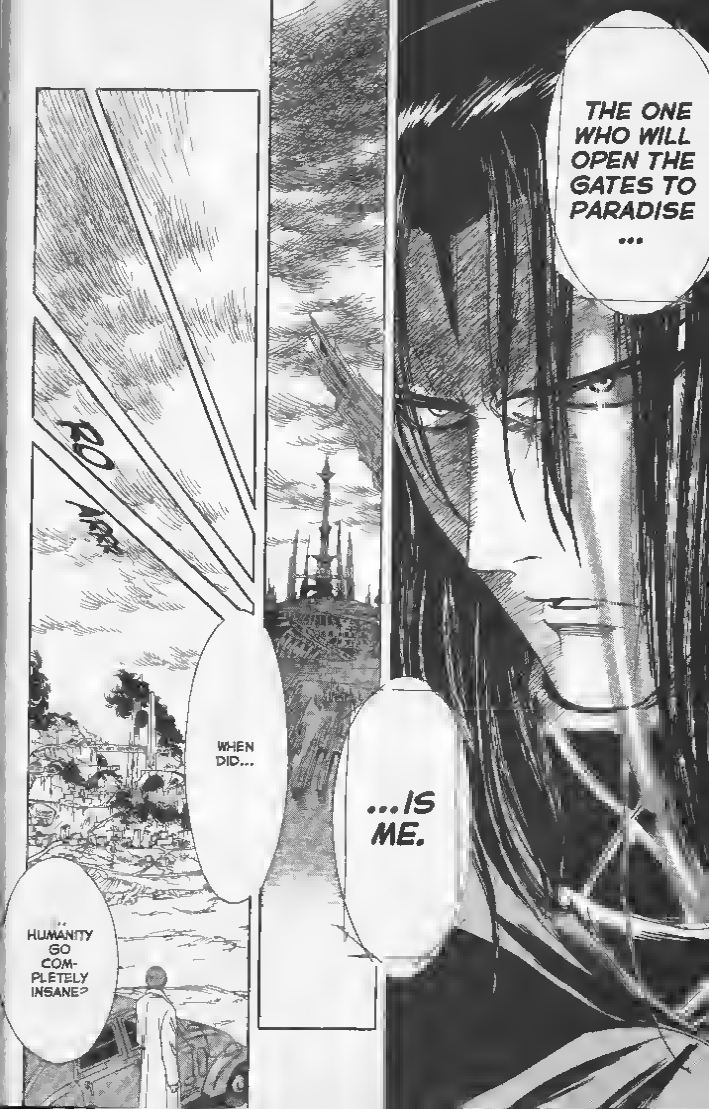
KABOOM
BRATTA BRATTA
RAT
BOOM
CHK
CHK
CHK
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WOLVES BRING ABOUT NOTHING BUT DEATH.
I'D RATHER BE DEAD THAN LIVE IH...
...SOME PARADISE THE WOLVES OPENED.
"RAIN WILL MELT AWAY THE FROZEN SOIL"?
ALL THAT MEAHS ...
...IS THAT THE BLOOD OF THE WOLVES WILL RAIH DOWN.

HYUU
PHEW
PHEW
...ARE THEY GONE ...?
...LOOKS LIKE IT.
WHAT THE HELL WERE THOSE?
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE 'EM.
...
TSUME ... ...ARE YOU OKAY ...?
I WASN'T HURT TOO BAD...
YEAH.
... COMPARED TO HIM...

HE'S WILLING TO DIE...
I HOPE HE'S OKAY ...
KIBA WAS ALREADY HURT PRETTY BAD.
I KNOW ...
...TO SAVE CHEZA.
...SHI-
THEY'RE FINE JOIN AFTER OTHER NOBLES THAT GET IN THEIR WAY
THE NOBLES USED THE WOLVES AND NOW THEY'RE TRYING TO DESTROY THEM!
TADA
TADA
TADA


BAAAM
BLOOD KIN, SUB-ORDINATES, OR LOVED ONES
...IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER THEY'RE
THEY'LL KILL ALL WHO GETS IN THEIR WAY.

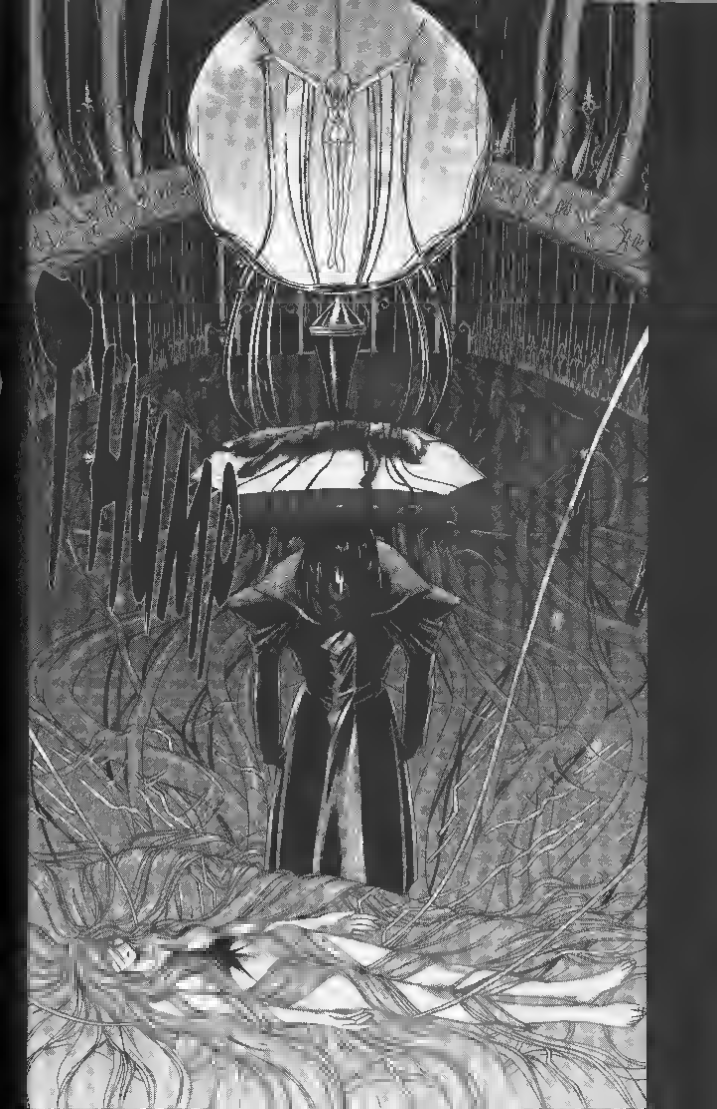
...IMPOS-
SIBLE
HAMONA
JUST
HAMONA
YOU
WAKE
UP
...HA-
MONA.
...THE
TIME...
HAS
COME...
...HA-
MONA.
I'LL
MAKE
GOOD
...ON
MY...
...
PROMISE
THAT
DAY.


THE ONE WHO WILL OPEN THE GATES TO PARADISE ...
...IS ME.
WHEN DID...
...HUMANITY GO COMPLETELY INSANE?

ACCORDING TO THE ORAL TRADITION OF A CERTAIN TRIBE...
HUMANS EVOLVED FROM THE GREAT WOLF GODS
IF...
...THE HUMAN RACE DESTROYS ITSELF...
MAYBE A NEW RACE OF HUMANS...
...WILL EVOLVE FROM THE WOLF GODS.
...SO, YOU THINK WE'RE HELPLESS..
...LET'S GO, HUBB.
...EVEN TO THE END OF THE WORLD?

I'LL BE FINE I'M NOT ALONE-
KIBAAA!
KIBAAA!
SHOULD I TAKE THAT AS A COMPLIMENT?
HIGE!!
WE CAN'T GIVE UP
KIBA... IS STILL ALIVE!
...HIS SCENT ...IS GONE.
MAYBE ...
...HE'S ALREADY DEAD...
SURE I'LL BE WITH YOU
BUT...
WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE ...?
...LISTEN.
HUH?
...AH!
...AND...
I CAN BARELY HEAR IT...
...IN THE WIND.
I'M SURE THAT THEY'RE HEADING THERE TOO

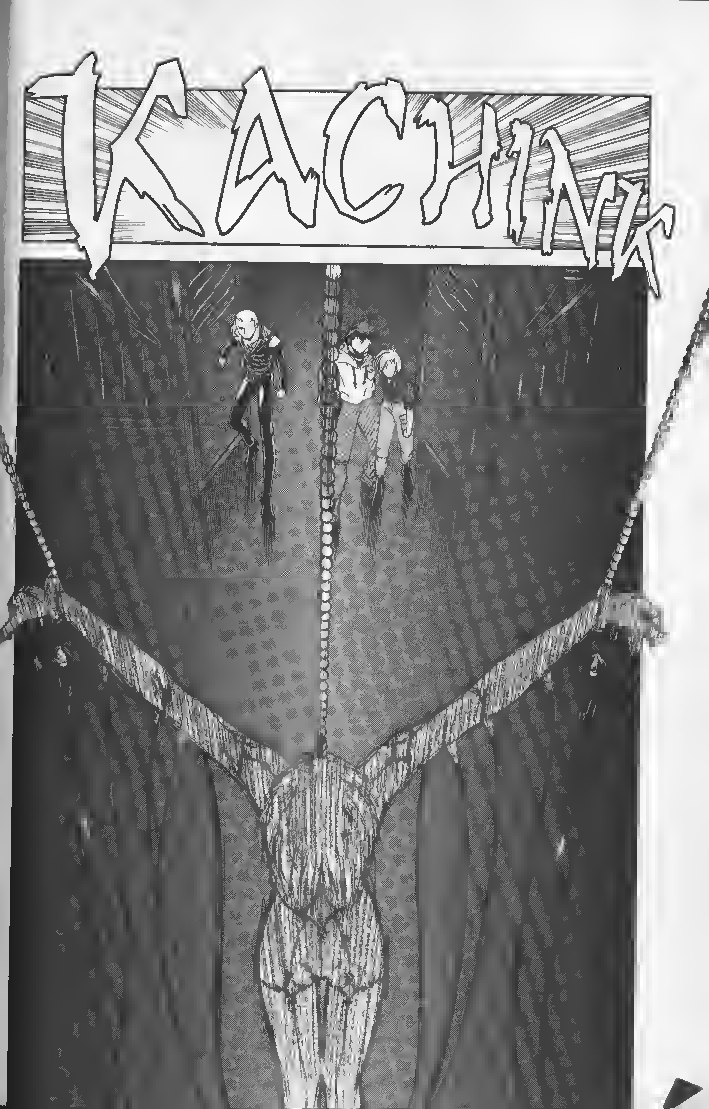
I'M SURE THEY WILL
...IT'S CHEZA'S SONG.
FIND CHEZA
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP


THUMP

HAMONA.
SOON ...
THE GATES TO PARADISE WILL BE OPEN.
IT DOESN'T BELONG TO THE WOLVES ...
...OR ANYONE ELSE.
WE'LL GO THERE TOGETHER, HAMONA.
IT WILL BE OUR PARADISE ALONE.
...MAYBE ...
...I JUST HAVE BLOOD IN MY EYES ..
WHY...
...ARE YOU SHAKING, TOBOE?

...BUT, THE MOON ... LOOKS RED
A BRIGHT, BURNING ...
RED.
DON'T WORRY.
IT'S NOT JUST YOU
...IT'S DEFINITELY ... ...AN UNSETTLING COLOR
WHY?

SOUND SO DISTANT?
CHEZA'S VOICE.
WHY DOES
THAT WE'D ALL BEEN WAITING FOR.
EVEN THOUGH THIS IS THE NIGHT OF THE FULL MOON
AS IF SOME-THING IS MISSING
WHY DOES IT FEEL
DOES IT SEEM SO DARK?
WHY
...I KNOW WHY.
IT'S BECAUSE
HE'S NOT HERE

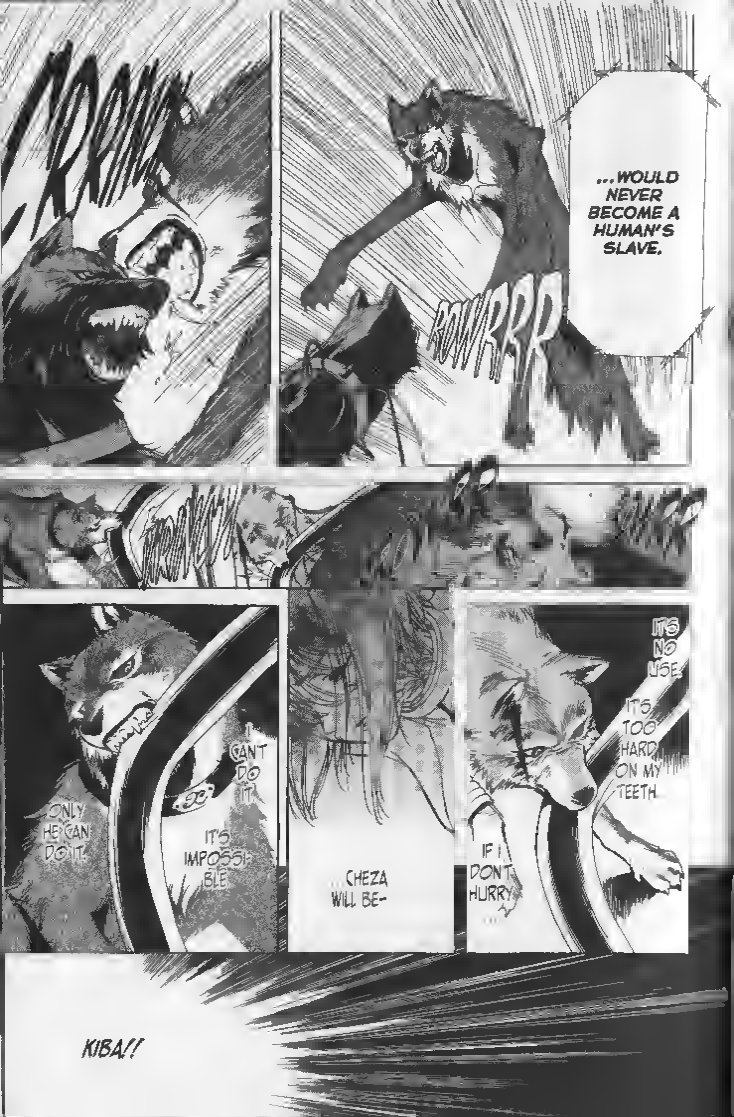

KACHINK

CHEZA!!

...
SHE'S WILTING ...!!
WE'LL SAVE YOU NOW!!
...WOLVES.
YOU STILL CAME HERE TO FIGHT?
...YOU'RE ...
...WASTING YOUR TIME
CLINK
CLINK

I WON'T HAND OVER ...
...PARADISE TO ANYONE ELSE.
...
IT'S YOU ...!
...WHAT THE HELL ...
...ARE YOU DOING HERE ...?

...STAY OUT OF MY WAY.
I'VE... ...AWAKENED THE WOLF'S BLOOD IN ME.
OPEN-ING PARA-DISE ...
I CAN'T EVER GO BACK AGAIN.
...IS THE FUTURE BEQUEATHED TO ME.
...YOU IDIOT.
A WOLF ...


...WOULD NEVER BECOME A HUMAN'S SLAVE.
ROWRRR
IT'S NO USE
IT'S TOO HARD ON MY TEETH
IF I DON'T HURRY...
CHEZA WILL BE-
I CAN'T DO IT
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE
ONLY HE CAN DO IT
KIBA!!

...HEH-
THAT'S ...
...OUR LINE.
...KI-
CRASH
CRASH
...
...ARE YOU OKAY ...?
TOMOE.
...HIGE.
...TSUME.

...
KIBA.

grope. 11: Rain

CHINK
CHINK
group.11

CHINK
CHINK

I'M HERE NOW.

SWP
THE WHITE WOLF.
EVEN THOUGH THE GATES TO PARADISE ARE ABOUT TO BE OPENED ...
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE SO BADLY WOUNDED ...
YOU STILL WANT TO FIGHT?

...YOU FOOL!
SCREECH
CHER
IS CHEZA HERE?
...YES.
DARCIA'S KEEP...
...FALLEN INTO DARKNESS.
THAT NOISE-
THE GATES ...
...ARE STARTING TO OPEN.

THE END ...
...OF THE WORLD IS NEAR.
WE'VE GOTTA HURRY ...
HUBB
YEAH.
.. WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT PARADISE.
I DON'T CARE WHETHER IT'S THE WOLVES THAT OPEN IT, OR THE NOBILITY.
IT'S ALL THE SAME TO ME.
I'LL WATCH THE END FROM HERE

KACHING
KACHING
MY WORLD ...
...ENDED A LONG TIME AGO...
KACHING
ON THE DAY...
...THAT I LOST EVERY-THING
"PARADISE"...
...WAS DEFINITELY THERE.

CRASH
!!!
I'M TALKING ABOUT
...MY FOOLISH CHILDHOOD.
WHP
CHINK
CHINK
KACHING
KACHING
...!?
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
EVERY LAST FLOWER
AND BURNED
THE HUMANS SET FIRE TO OUR TOWN
THEY WERE LUNAR FLOWERS
THE NIGHT OF THE FULL MOON
WAS COVERED
FLOWERS THAT ONLY BLOOMED
THE PLACE WHERE I WAS BORN

"PARADISE"
"HEAD FOR PARADISE"
...ALONG WITH THE REST OF MY PACK.

SLICE
SCHUNG
DURING OUR JOURNEY ..
I KEPT THINK-ING.
WHY .
...WAS I THE ONLY ONE WHO SURVIVED?

WHY IS THIS VOICE...
...TRYING TO GUIDE ME...
...TO A PARADISE THAT NO LONGER EXISTS.
FWOOSH
KIBA!

SHI-
GET READY TO ATTACK.
OKAY.
...AFTER I WAS SEPARATED FROM YOU GUYS...
...CHEZA WAS STOLEN FROM ME.
...I ...
THE NOBLE'S SHIP STAYED ON MY TAIL, BUT...
...KEPT ON WALKING THROUGH THE DARK-NESS

SNAP
SNAP
CRACK
CRASH
DARKNESS SO PITCH BLACK THAT EVEN THE LIGHT OF THE WAXING MOON COULDN'T PENETRATE IT.
CLINK
BUT THERE WAS ONE THING ...
...THAT DID PENETRATE IT.
YOUR VOICES.
YOUR VOICES WERE LIKE A GUIDING LIGHT
AND I FINALLY REALIZED...
THAT MY PURPOSE HERE

...AND LIVE ON TO PROTECT IT.
...IS TO RESTORE OUR LOST KINSHIP ...

CLANK
YOU NOBLES...
CLINK
...ARE TRYING TO OPEN THE WAY TO PARADISE.
CLINK
BUT, WHAT HAPPENS TO THE ONES..
...WHO ARE LEFT BEHIND ?
CLINK CLINK
...THEY'LL DISAP PEAR.
EVERY-THING WILL.

...KIN YOU WANT TO PROTECT?
ISN'T THERE...
...NO.
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT...
...FOR ME ANY-MORE.

...IS THE SAME AS THE ONE WE WOLVES ARE SEARCHING FOR.
YOU SAID...
...THAT YOUR PARA-DISE...
IT CAN'T BE THE SAME!
IF OPEN NO PARADISE
MEANS SACRIFICING EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD, THEN...
BUT IT'S NOT!

KABOOM!

A BOM-BARD-MENT!?
IS THAT.
THE WOLVES
HOWL-ING!?

KUHCRASH
HAW-RU
HAW-RU
HAW-RU
SOME-TIMES
IT'S LIKE I'M BEING CRUSHED BY MY OWN FEELINGS OF LOSS
I LOSE SIGHT OF WHY I'M EVEN HERE
...BLUE...

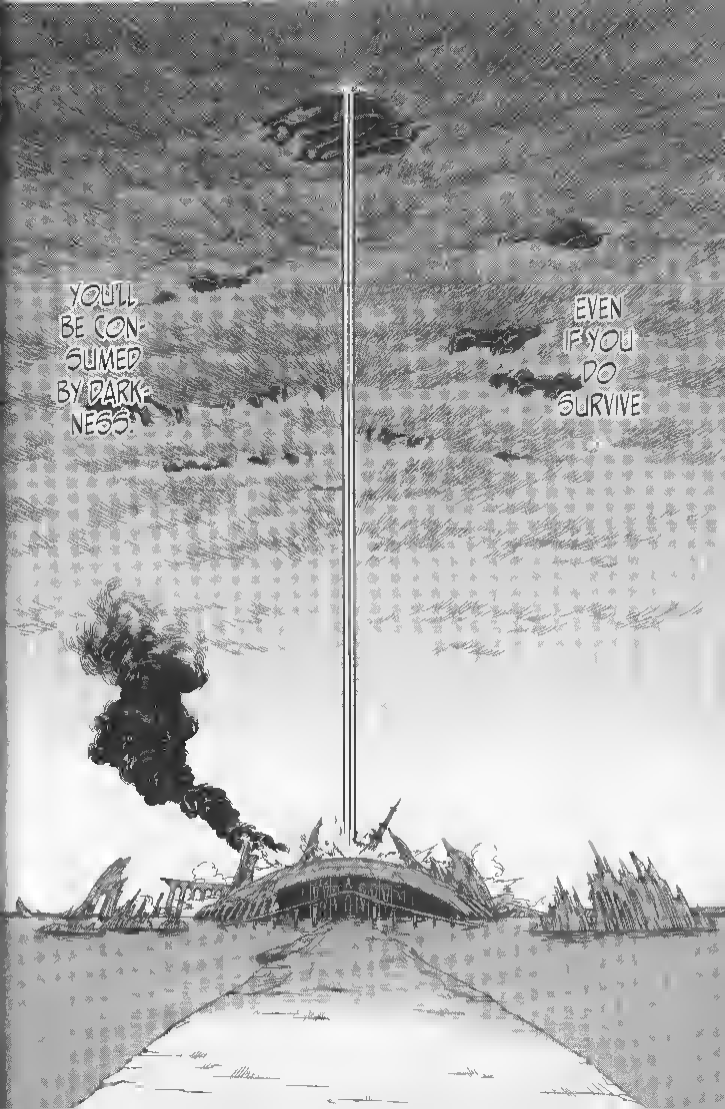
CRACK
CRACK
BUT WE LIVE ON
BLUE!
WHERE ARE YOU, BLUE?
THUNK
CRUNK
CRUNK
DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER YOU'RE A HUMAN A WOLF OR A POWER
NO MATTER HOW MUCH HURT WE CARRY ALONG WITH US
!

PARADISE EXIST RIGHT HERE.

CRACK
...SHI-
RUMBLE
ARE YOU GUYS OKAY?
HOW'S CHEZA!?
SHE'LL MAKE IT.
KIBA!?
WHERE'S KIBA!?
SHE'S BARELY BREATHING
RUMBLE
KIBAAA!
...PITCH BLACK...
DARKNESS IS COMING.

...!!
KIBA...
...RIGHT EYE... YOUR GOOD EYE, IT'S...
YOUR ...
INCOM-PARABLE ...
...TRUE DARK-NESS.
...THAT THIS WORLD WE LIVE IN...
...IS GOING TO BECOME PARA-DISE?
DO YOU STILL BELIEVE ...

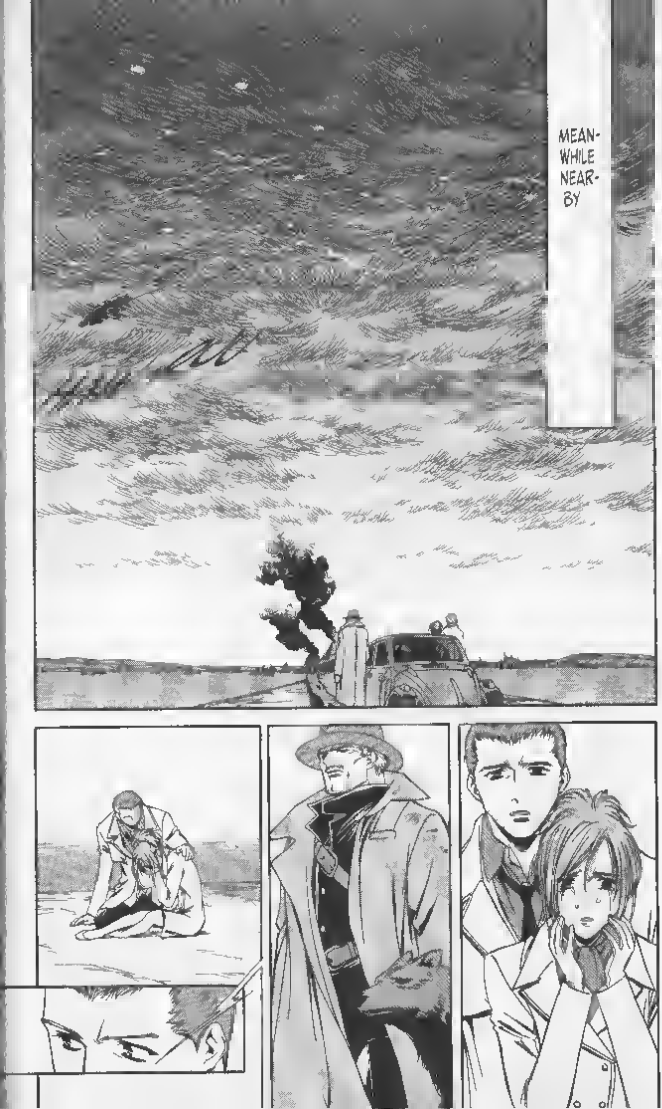
AS LONG AS WE STILL HAVE OUR SOULS.
WE'LL SURVIVE.
I HOPE YOU NEVER STOP... ...SUFFERING.
I HOPE YOU WOLVES DO... ...SURVIVE.


YOU'LL BE CONSUMED BY DARKNESS.
EVEN IF YOU DO SURVIVE

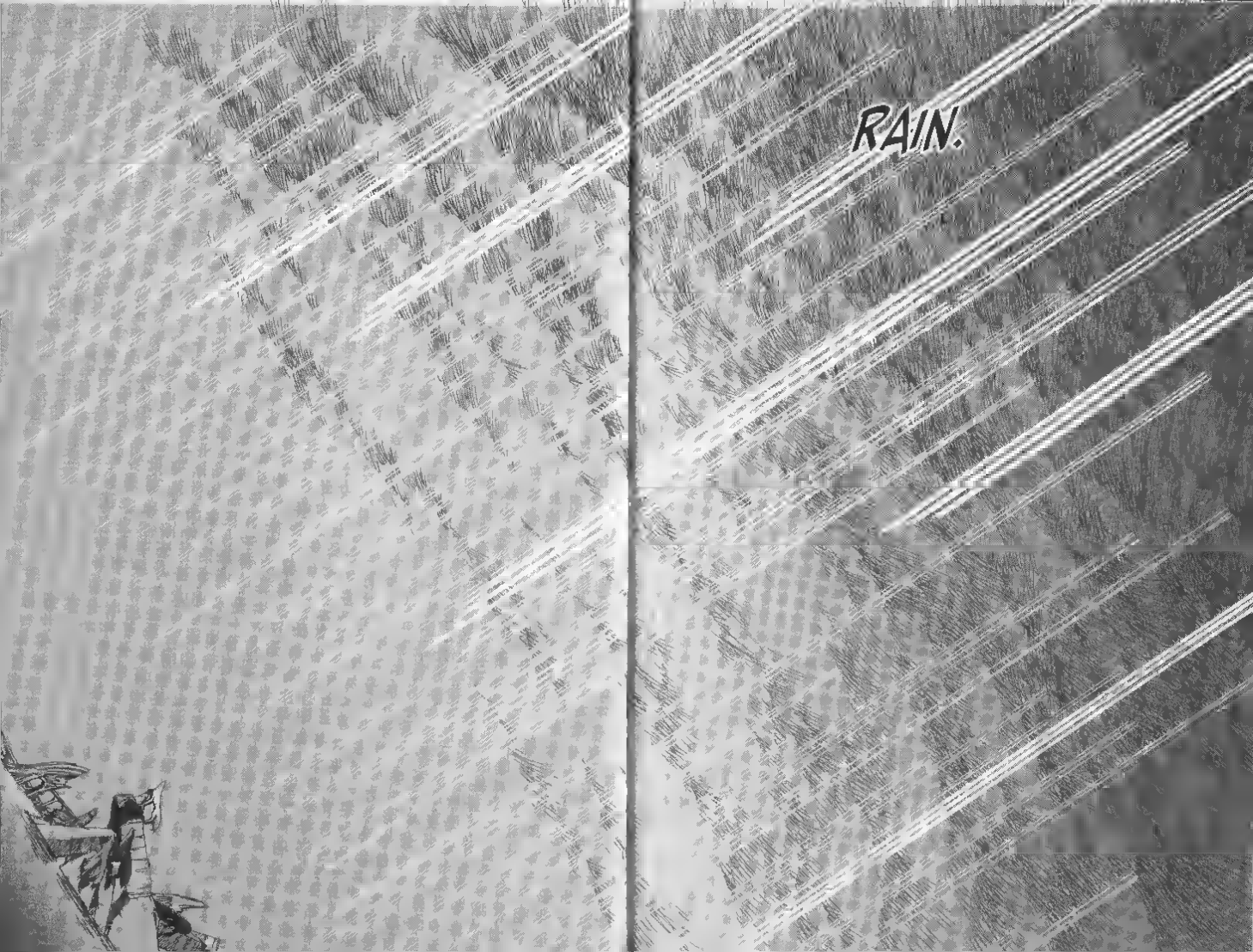
...WE CAN'T STAY HERE.
IT'S TOO DANGER-OUS.
LET'S GO.
CHER.
CHEZAAA!
DO YOU REALLY THINK ...
...THAT THIS PLACE WILL BECOME PARA-DISE?
I'M...
...GO-ING TO ASK YOU ONE MORE TIME.
KIBA.

EVEN THOUGH THEY ROBBED ME OF LIGHT...
I'M NOT AFRAID.
I CAN STILL SEE ALL OF YOU.
...KIBA.
THIS ONE...
...WILL SING.
...THAT'S NOT AN ANSWER...
MAN.
YOU JUST DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?
BUT YOU KNOW WHAT'S WEIRD?
I'M NOT AFRAID ANYMORE EITHER.
SING...
...EVERY-BODY.
...SING.
TO-GETHER

CRACK
WE HAVE NO CHOICE.
PREPARE TO ATTACK!
...THE FLOWER MAIDEN IS STARTING TO-
...IT CAN'T BE.
...SHI-
BEEP
...IT'S-
A HIGH FREQUENCY WAVE'S COMING FROM WITHIN DARCIA'S FALLEN KEEP.
BEEP
BEEP
WOLVES !!
WE'RE WITHDRAWING, HEADING THREE O'CLOCK.
ROAR
BEEP
WHAT HAPPENED ?
DAMAGE TO THE ENGINE SECTION.
IT'S FROM BELOW-
...AND SHE'S WITH...
IT'S CHEZA!
SEVERAL-
WE'VE LOST SHIP FIVE.
BEEP
GRRR


MEAN-
WHILE
NEAR-
BY

STOOD THE CHOSEN
WOLVES
IT ALMOST LOOKED LIKE
AT THAT MOMENT
THE CLOUD OF DARKNESS
WAS TORN APART
BY COUNTLESS
ARROWS OF CRIMSON LIGHT


RAIN.

Plop
TIAAA!
TIA!
HUH-
WHAT?
ARE YOU SURE IT'S OKAY...
...TO TAKE THE FLOWERS OUTSIDE LIKE THAT?
YEAH
THEY'VE SPENT THEIR WHOLE LIVES IN THE GREEN-HOUSE.
BUT THE FLOWERS SPOKE TO ME...
THEY SAID...
...THAT THE ICE AGE IS FINALLY OVER.

THERE'S A RUMOR AROUND TOWN...
HMM?
...THAT REMINDS ME.
...THAT ...
...SOMEWHERE FAR, FAR AWAY...
.....PARADISE WAS FOUND.
...
HOW COOL. I WONDER WHAT IT'S LIKE.
I WANNA GO THERE
...WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THIS PLACE IS GOING TO BECOME PARADISE TOO.
TOBOE
FINALLY FOUND MY OWN PARADISE

YOU
PROBABLY REACHED YOURS AFTER A LONG STRUGGLE.
DID YOU FIND THE FLOWER
YOU WERE LOOKING FOR?
STEP
WELL...
I GUESS THIS ISN'T IT EITHER
BUT...
ONE THING'S FOR SURE.
THE FLOWER PETAL THAT CAME FLUTTERING FROM THIS WAY
...THAT DAY...
...HAS THE SCENT OF THE FLOWER THAT DAD AND MOM LOST
...AND...

YES.
...I CAN HEAR THEM...
... MY BROTHER.
LET'S GO.
I CAN HEAR ...
...THE CALL OF THE WOLVES.

1 Year of Blood

A sheep in wolf's clothing

By Toshifusa Iida

E-T Products 2004

It turned out to be the year of the wolf.

Every week I sent my final draft to Kodansha from Kyoto.
It was my first time drawing blue too →
Wow
The Kodansha building sure is big

I experienced a lot of new things in that 1 year. First of all, I met with the story creator Nowmoto-sensei, the producer Mitani, and the director Okamura. It was my first time working on a manga based on someone else's characters. I had deadlines every month, and I got to work with a select group of professionals from the Kanto area.

The inside of the building was modern, like some of the Western style mansions in Kobe. That room had held many of the most famous manga artist sensei. If I had some kind of spiritual power I might've been able to see some of their ghosts (laughs).
I had to pass through an alleyway behind the main building in order to get to Building Number One. It had a real retro feel to it. That alley way reminded me of some of the locations used in "WolF."

EVERY MONTH, A BLOOD BATH CARNAGE WITH BLOOD TOOK PLACE THERE.

Thankfully, I had several qualified assistants who didn't mind helping a stupid monkey. Some of them were already published artists and were in very high demand. Some of them were actually very handsome. I couldn't have done it without them. Thank you, everybody.

Just kidding (laughs). It was actually very peaceful. The editors were very helpful, considering that my IQ is below that of the average monkey. ← (That's offensive to monkeys.)

Maybe I'm ruining the whole story

CELEBRATING VOL. 2

CONGRATULATIONS AND *THANK YOU* *WOLF'S RAIN!!*

It's Norio, the one who's always, always causing trouble for everybody. I spent the last half of this work period in the hospital, so I really did cause a lot of trouble for everyone.

I drew the picture on the left with the idea of making Cheza a little more stylish. But, if you dress her up in regular clothes, she doesn't look like Cheza anymore. That's why she looks the way she does...

KIBA VS LAZY NONO

BUT WHEN I ACTUALLY TRIED TO DRAW THE MAIN CHARACTER IT PROVED TO BE VERY DIFFICULT
THIS IS THE END OF THE STORY, SO I GUESS I SHOULD DRAW THE MAIN CHARACTER
I WAS TOLD I'D GET A WHOLE ASSISTANT'S PAGE TO MYSELF IN THIS BOOK TOO. I WORRIED ABOUT WHAT I WAS GOING TO DRAW UNTIL THE DAY BEFORE THE DEADLINE
HORRIBLE
SHOCK!!
I CAN'T DRAW HANDSOME GUYS
I'LL NEVER MAKE THE DEADLINE
OKAY!! I'M GONNA DRAW KIBA.
WOW

Hello, it's Kubota. Sorry about this drawing. It's so dark. (*Am I sorry*)

This year passed very quickly. What was the most memorable part of being an assistant? Drawing the forest? Well, Darcia's keep was really hard to draw. Thanks to Iida-sensei! I was able to make it as an assistant for the first time in my life. It really was a fun year. Thank you very much Iida-sensei. I'll see you all again. (laughs) *somewhere*

What was the most memorable thing about Wolf's Rain? It's when I saw a maid in Kodansha's annex building while I was working on shading. That left a very big impression on me. It's a true story.

Thank you, Iida-sensei. Please hire me for your next project.

Kinbara 1099

WOLF'S RAIN

VOLUME 2

Story
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Art
Toshitsugu Iida

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PARENTAL ADVISORY
WOLF'S RAIN is rated T+ for Teen Plus.
Contains strong language and some violence.
Recommended for older teens (16 and up).

Thank you for reading *Wolf's Rain!*

Even though the main cast and the setting is the same, you might have noticed that this manga is nevertheless different from the animated television series. Specifically, some scenes and characters only appear in the manga and not the anime (and vice versa). Even the scenes that are the same have different dialogue and sequence of events. We've worked with the English translator of the animated version and talked with the original creators at BONES to ensure that the common elements are translated similarly—and the differences are accurately portrayed.

BEHIND THE NAMES

No notes for *Wolf's Rain* would be complete without a Japanese-to-English translation of the wolves' unique names.

Kiba: Fang
Tsume: Claw
Hige: Whisker
Toboe (or *"tôboe"*): Howling

"GROPE 6"? "GROPE. 7"?

No, it isn't a dirty reference—the Japanese manga creators deliberately called the manga chapters "gropes"—a reference to the Japanese phrase *"tadori tsuku"* (to grope or arrive somewhere after a struggle).

"THIS ONE" IS CHEZA

Throughout the *Wolf's Rain* manga (and anime), Cheza calls herself "this one" ("kore" in Japanese). According to the creators, that's because Cheza was actually listening during her time at the laboratory, and the scientists would simply call her "this one." (In the original Japanese text, the term is written both ways, with "Cheza" in regular size and "kore" next to it in a smaller script called furigana.)

OF WOLVES AND GODS

During a break in their car ride, Cher and Hubb call the wolves "great gods." The writers take advantage of how the Japanese terms for "wolf" and "great god" are pronounced the same way, "ôkami." (In the original Japanese text, the terms are written side-by-side, with one in regular size and the second in *furigana*.)

KYRIOS OR KURIOS?

You might have noticed in the first volume of the manga and the anime that Quent comes from the town of Kyrios, even though it's pronounced "Kuriosu." Anime translator David Fleming astutely notes that Quent's ID in the TV series spells out "Kyrios" in Cyrillic. (The creators used Cyrillic because the language reminds them of cold, harsh places.)

NOTES ON THE NOTES

- The author initially calls 2003 the year of the sheep based on the 12-animal "zodiac" calendar that Japan adopted from the Chinese culture. (It's also known as the year of the goat.)
- Before *Wolf's Rain*, Keiko Nobumoto co-created *Macross Plus* and *Cowboy Bebop*, Masahiko Minami produced *The Vision of Escaflowne* and *Cowboy Bebop*, and Tensai Okamura directed the dark "Stink Bomb" satire in Katsuhiro Otomo's *Memories*.
- The manga artists call their mentors *sensei* (teacher, master, doctor), the normal term of respect for elder manga artists.
- In his manga notes, the assistant Tetsuji Nonoyama writes the Japanese character for the beginning of his family name ("No-") on his cap.
- Finally, the manga artist spells his name two different ways: Toshitsugu Iida and Toshitzg E->da. The original Japanese publisher Kodansha asked us to spell his name as Toshitsugu Iida in our English version.

THANKS AGAIN FOR READING!
—Egan Loo, *Editor*